

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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P 161550Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6517

S E C R E T CAIRO 9197

NODIS/CHEROKEH

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR IS EG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S VIEW ON ISRAELI CARGO THROUGH SUEZ CANAL

REF: CAIRO 9072

1. IN MY DISCUSSION WITH FAHMY TODAY ABOUT DIFFICULTIES IN GENEVA (CAIRO 9194), HE MENTIONED THAT HE HAD GIVEN THE PRESIDENT A WRITTEN MEMORANDUM ABOUT OUR TWO TALKS ON THE EARLY TRANSIT OF ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL. HE HAD SUGGESTED IN THAT MEMORANDUM THAT SUCH TRANSIT MIGHT TAKE PLACE ONE WEEK BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO THE US. (HE HAD TOLD ME HE WOULD TALK ABOUT 8-14 DAYS). THE PRESIDENT HAD ANNOTATED HIS MEMORANDUM "NOT BEFORE TWO MONTHS." IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, FAHMY SAID THERE IS NOTHING FURTHER HE CAN DO.

2. I TOLD FAHMY THAT THIS WAS A REGRETTABLE DECISION. I AGAIN RECALLED THE EGYPTIAN COMMITMENT TO ALLOW ISRAELI CARGOES TO TRANSIT THE CANAL PREDATES THE NEW AGREEMENT AND THAT MUCH PUBLICITY HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO IT. FAHMY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT PREDATED THE NEW AGREEMENT, BUT CONTENDED THAT THE ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING IT IN THE NEW AGREEMENT MEANS THAT FULFILLMENT IS GOVERNED BY

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THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. THE FACT THAT MUCH

PUBLICITY HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN TO A POSSIBLE TRANSIT OF ISRAELI CARGO WAS IMMATERIAL TO FAHMY. HE ARGUED THAT THIS PUBLICITY IS A DELIBERATE ISRAELI EFFORT TO EMBARRASS SADAT BEFORE THE ARABS. I TOLD FAHMY THAT I WAS SURE WE COULD NOT ACCEPT HIS INTERPRETATION. I URGED HIM TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ISRAELI CARGO BEING ALLOWED THROUGH THE CANAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, EVEN IF ONLY ON A TOKEN BASIS. HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL.

3. COMMENT: I CANNOT BE SURE THAT SADAT'S CURRENT DISPLEASURE ABOUT THE STATUS OF GENEVA TALKS PLAYED A PART IN HIS DECISION NOT TO ALLOW ISRAELI CARGOES THROUGH FOR TWO MONTHS. FAHMY CLAIMS THE PRESIDENT SAW HIS MEMORANDUM BEFORE LAST NIGHT'S TALK. WE MUST EXPECT, HOWEVER, THAT SADAT IS NOT LIKELY TO BE BUDGED ON THIS SO LONG AS THE GENEVA TALKS GO UNSATISFACTORILY. THE PRESIDENT'S MAJOR CONCERN CONTINUES TO BE THE ADVERSE IMPACT WHICH PUBLICIZING THE PASSAGE OF SUCH A CARGO WILL HAVE ON HIS ARAB CRITICS AND WANTS THE DUST TO SETTLE. FAHMY REITERATED THAT BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND HE WILL HONOR THEIR COMMITMENT, BUT THAT TIMING IS IMPORTANT. THE BEST TIME AGAIN TO TACKLE SADAT AND FAHMY ON THIS MATTER WILL BE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF WHAT, HOPEFULLY, WILL BE SUCCESSFUL TALKS AT GENEVA NEXT WEEK.  
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## Message Attributes

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